

Message Text

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51

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /097 W

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R 251800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8713

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, CI

SUBJECT: LEGAL OBSERVERS

REF: STATE 110310

1. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY NEWS THAT CLARK AND BOOTH REPRESENT TWO US COMMITTEES. CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY, ON DIRECT QUESTION, THEY DID NOT DISCLOSE THIS TO AMBASSADOR.

2. IN VIEW OF ALLEGATIONS WHICH MAY APPEAR IN CHILEAN PRESS REGARDING COMMITTEE AND CENTER IF CLARK AND BOOTH SHOULD MAKE CRITICAL STATEMENTS ON THEIR RETURN TO US, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ABOUT THE TWO GROUPS.

3. AS TO DAWSON TRIALS, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE JUNE 17, OR REGARDING ANY OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH TRIALS WILL BE HELD.

AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR GENERAL BONILLA AT LUNCHEON MAY 24; MINISTER LIMITED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT PREPARATIONS FOR TRIAL WERE GOING FORWARD. AMBASSADOR NOTED NO SPECIFIC CHARGES HAD YET BEEN PLACED AGAINST PRISONERS AND REMARKED

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THAT IF DEFENSE COUNSEL WERE TO HAVE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY

TO PREPARE DEFENSES, HE DID NOT SEE HOW TRIALS COULD
BEGIN MUCH BEFORE END OF JUNE. BONILLA DID NOT DISAGREE
WITH THIS ASSERTION.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY BE SURE THAT AS SOON AS WE CAN ELICITY
DETAILS REGARDING DAWSON TRIALS, WE WILL CABLE THEM
IN EXTENSO.

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